



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
Joe W. Stecher

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

August 24, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the United States Department of Social Security announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Calling her conduct “evil and vile”, the Honorable Richard G. Kopf today sentenced Martha Lounsbury, a/k/a Martha Harms, to six years incarceration, pursuant to Lounsbury’s guilty plea on June 4, 2009 to the felony offense of mail fraud. In approximately November, 2003, Lounsbury placed an aunt, who was suffering from dementia, in the Alzheimer’s unit of a Crete nursing home, where the aunt lived until she died in March, 2009. Lounsbury held power of attorney authority and was the healthcare representative for her aunt, and used these positions to steal \$184,558 from her aunt between January, 2005, and July, 2008. The U.S. mails were used from time to time, for the purpose of executing this scheme to defraud, resulting in the mail fraud charge. Restitution in the amount of \$184,558 was ordered paid to the five surviving nieces and nephews of the victim. At her sentencing hearing in Lincoln, Lounsbury admitted she had used some of the stolen money to buy marijuana and methamphetamine for herself and her husband, and that she had not contacted the nursing home where her aunt lived for at least a year prior to her aunt’s death, despite being the only relative who held power of attorney for health care purposes.

Name of Defendant: Martha Ellen Lounsbury

AKA: Martha Harms

Age: 48

City of Residence: Riviera Beach, Florida

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Mail Fraud - 20 years imprisonment; \$250,000 fine; 3 years term of supervised release, and \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Crete, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: N/A

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: N/A

Others Charged in Same Scheme: None

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: 11/01/05 through 11/2008

Federal Arrest Date: 02/19/2009

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 11/18/2008

Initial Appearance Date: 01/22/2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): 05/08/2009

Sentencing Date: 08/21/2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: David Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without Bond

In Continuous Custody Since: 02/19/2009

Assigned District Court Judge: Richard Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: ALE